(b) and (c). The prices of various grades of coal which was last revised with effect from 1/1/89 are still in force. The weighted average price per tonne on CIL's overall production of coal was Rs. 274.20, Rs. 268.70 and Rs. 262.89 during the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively.

[*English*]

Political Asylum to Elected Representative of Myanmar

4629. SHIR HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some elected representatives of Myanmar (Burma) have sought political asylum in India; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Four Myanmar MPs who crossed into India, were given political asylum on humanitarian grounds with permission for them to stay in India till such time as conditions become conducive for their safe return to their country. This permission however has been granted on the condition that they would not indulge in any political activity during their sojourn on Indian territory.

Exploitation of Coal in Collaboration with Japan

4630. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agreement with Japan for exploitation of coal by Singareni Collieries Company through open cast mining at Ramagundam has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) According to information available with the Ministry of Coal, no agreement has been entered into with Japan for mining of coal at Ramagundam by Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.

(b) Does not arise.

Explosions in ONGC Project at Uran

4631. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in June 1991 two explosions have occurred in ONGC project at Uran (Maharashtra);

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any inquiry into the matter; and

(c) if so, the loss sustained due to these explosions in terms of money and human lives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Entry of Multi-Nationals in Fishing Trade

4632. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether multi-nationals have ben allowed in fishing trade in the Indian ocean and Bay of Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that this has thrown several lakhs fishermen in the country on the verge of starvation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). Information will be collected and placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Involvement of NRIs in Poultry Projects

4633. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to start poultry projects in some States with the assistance of the Non-Resident Indians;

(b) if so, the name of the States where these poultry projected are proposed to be started;

(c) whether any such poultry project is proposed to be started in Orissa;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the total amount of foreign exchange expected to be earned annually from those poultry projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Oil Exploration Policy

4634. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revise the existing oil exploration policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). the programme and strategy for the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons is decided keeping in view the objectives, resources availability etc. and undergo changes from time to time.

Petroleum Consumption

4635. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total petroleum consumption by automobiles in the country and its value in U.S. Dollars;

(b) whether the Government envisage any policy programme to go in higher scale of indigenous crude oil production to reduce the import;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total natural gas available in the country at present, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Consumption of petroleum products is maintained sectorwise. In view of fluctuating exchange rate of the US Dollar, the accurate value of this consumption cannot be made.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Five oil field devel-